

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 22, 2008

**Senate Joint Resolution**

**No. 12**

**Introduced by Senators Simitian and Alquist**

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Berg)

**(Coauthors: Senators ~~Torlakson~~ Corbett, Romero, Scott, Torlakson, and Yee)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Carter, *Cook*, *Dymally*, *Laird*, Levine, Lieber, *Maze*, *Mendoza*, Mullin, Ruskin, *Walters*, and Wolk)

June 18, 2007

Senate Joint Resolution No. 12—Relative to elder abuse awareness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 12, as amended, Simitian. Elder abuse awareness stamp.

This measure would request the President and the Congress of the United States to enact legislation that would authorize the United States Postmaster General to establish a special rate of postage for first-class mail, and to issue a special postage stamp, to provide funds for elder abuse prevention and awareness programs.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, According to the 2000 decennial census, 12 percent
- 2 of the total population in the United States was 65 years of age or
- 3 older, representing 35 million individuals. By the year 2030, it is
- 4 estimated that the number and percentage of individuals who are
- 5 65 years of age or older will nearly double to 20 percent of the
- 6 total population, or 60 million ~~individuals~~ *persons*; and
- 7 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 4 to 6 percent of all senior
- 8 citizens will become victims of some form of elder abuse, including
- 9 neglect and exploitation; and

1 WHEREAS, The act of elder abuse, including neglect and  
2 exploitation, is considered the “crime of the 21st century”; and

3 WHEREAS, Fewer than 20 percent of elder abuse cases are  
4 reported to adult protective services or law enforcement agencies;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, According to the American Medical Association,  
7 seniors who are abused or mistreated are three times more likely  
8 to die earlier than seniors of the same age who are not abused or  
9 mistreated; and

10 WHEREAS, Although the federal government spends \$520  
11 million on programs designed to combat violence against women,  
12 and \$6.7 billion on child abuse prevention efforts, it spends only  
13 \$153.5 million on elder abuse prevention; and

14 WHEREAS, To combat elder abuse, our government has the  
15 responsibility to help raise awareness in the community and fund  
16 programs that protect elders, train law enforcement, and support  
17 local and state prosecutors; and

18 WHEREAS, Former United States Senator John Breaux (D -  
19 Louisiana) introduced Senate Bill No. 333, known as The Elder  
20 Justice Act, which sought to provide national leadership to combat  
21 elder abuse, including neglect and exploitation; and

22 WHEREAS, If similar legislation is enacted, one means of  
23 funding this legislation would be to authorize and issue a special  
24 postage stamp, the revenue from which would help fund the  
25 programs outlined in this bill. A special postage stamp for elder  
26 abuse awareness, like the breast cancer stamp, would cost postal  
27 patrons more than the face value of the stamp. Funds collected in  
28 excess of the face value of the stamp, after the postal service is  
29 reimbursed for its costs related to issuing this special postage  
30 stamp, would provide funding for elder abuse programs; and

31 WHEREAS, An elder abuse awareness stamp would also provide  
32 a method for all citizens to learn about, and contribute to stopping,  
33 this shocking crime; now, therefore, be it

34 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*  
35 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature hereby respectfully  
36 memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to  
37 afford the public a convenient way to contribute towards the  
38 funding of elder abuse prevention and awareness programs by  
39 authorizing the United States Postmaster General to establish a  
40 special rate of postage for first-class mail, and to issue a special

1 postage stamp regarding elder abuse prevention and awareness;  
2 and be it further

3 *Resolved*, That the Legislature respectfully memorializes the  
4 Congress and the President to enact appropriate legislation that  
5 would address the concerns set forth in this measure; and be it  
6 further

7 *Resolved*, That the Legislature respectfully memorializes other  
8 state legislatures to pass similar resolutions that memorialize the  
9 President and Congress of the United States to authorize the United  
10 States Postmaster General to establish a special rate of postage  
11 and issue a special postage stamp regarding elder abuse prevention  
12 and awareness; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That a copy of this measure be transmitted to the  
14 President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of  
15 the House of Representatives, the Chairpersons of the House and  
16 Senate Committees on Aging, and to each Senator and  
17 Representative from California in the Congress of the United  
18 States; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That a copy of this measure be transmitted to all of  
20 the 49 other state legislatures in the United States.